



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **08927-25 D.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S482233014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appealed from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits and the termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was initially scheduled for July 1, 2025, before the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), at which time the matter was conferenced with both parties and adjourned to July 9, 2025. On July 9, 2025, both parties appeared by telephone and the ALJ conferenced the matter for approximately ten minutes. During such conference, Petitioner would not indicate to the ALJ whether she wished to proceed with the hearing or to withdraw her appeal and reapply for WFNJ/GA and/or SNAP benefits. Therefore, the ALJ informed the parties that the matter was going on the record for a hearing, as Petitioner had not withdrawn her appeal. As the recording for the matter was being set up, Petitioner stated she was going to file a new application, and disconnected the call at approximately 9:13 a.m., without being excused by the ALJ. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner failed to call back. Later the same day, Petitioner emailed the ALJ's assistant to request another judge, however, the ALJ found that there was no factual or legal basis upon which she would be disqualified from handling the matter. Ibid. Further, the record reflects that Petitioner had not contacted the OAL since that hearing date, nor otherwise provided any indication that she wished to proceed. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. As a result, on July 11, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's April 17, 2025, denial of WFNJ/GA benefits, as well as the Agency's April 21, 2025, denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. August 07, 2025

Natasha Johnson



